

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for conducting a personal interview on July 17, 2003 with Applicant's representative. The amendments herein are believed to be in accordance with the agreements reached at the personal interview, and a statement of the substance of the interview is included below in accordance with MPEP § 713.04.

Status of the Application

Claims 3-12 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 11 and 12 are hereby added to more fully define the current invention, and as claims 1 and 2 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-10 have been rejected.

Statement of Substance of Interview

During the July 17, 2003 personal interview, Applicant's representative discussed all of the pending claims of the Application, and demonstrated that the applied references (US 6,028,383 to Ohshita, US 3,723,797 to Andersson, and US 5,057,732 to Fukaya) failed to teach or suggest *at least* the features of claims 3 and 4 of the instant Application (along with their respective dependent claims). The Examiner agreed that claims 3 and 4 (along with their respective dependent claims) were patentable over the references of record.

Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten claims 3 and 4 in independent form and has cancelled claims 1 and 2. Further, Applicant has amended claim 10 to depend from claim 3, and added new claims 11 and 12 that correspond to claims 9 and 10, but are dependent from claim 4.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of record are moot, and that claims 3-12 of the Application are immediately allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-12 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 3-12.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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